# LAND TITLE BILL WARMLY URGED

Farmers, Bankers, Real Estate People and Merchants Favor Adams Measure.

OPTION FEATURES

Torrens System of Land Registration Ends Old-Time Trouble.

An extended hearing on the Adams bill to provide for the registration of land titles was held before the House Committee for Courts of Justice last night. The committee will meet again this afternoon to go over the bill in detail in executive session, and pass finally on it. The bill provides briefly that any city or county may have the option of adopting, if it so desires, what is known as the Torrens system of land registration. It aims to do away with the long-winded and cumberscme method at present in vogue by which every time property is transferred or a mortgage is placed upon it, there has to be an exhaustive and expensive examination of the title, and the owner has no guarantee that the examiner has not omitted owner has no guarantee that the examiner has not omitted owner to plague him.

Guarantees Titles.

because the second of the theory of the text of the bill.

MEXICAN REBELS

Indeed on property transfers, the fund a raised to be held by the fund. In the unlikely contingency, after a title has been registered and the second of the second o

where there was no distinct constitu-tional provision.

Farmers Favor Bill.

G. H. Gannaway, president of the State Farmers Union, and A. B. Thorn-hill, business manager of that organi-zation, spoke for the bill on behalf of 20,000 enrolled members who favor a simplified system of recording land titles that will not make ownership of property a speculative venture, in which the owner may be forced from time to time to defend his title in the courts.

state Farmers' Institute, spoke for the bill as representative of that organization.

W. A. Clarke, Jr., representing the Retail Merchants' Association of Virginia; Secretary R. A. Dunlop, representing the Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, and John C. Easley, representing the Real Estate Exchange of Richmond, spoke in favor of the bills.

Murphy for "Local Option."

Colored Loby Murphy as an index of the northwestern zone, reported that eight brigades were moving toward the south to attack the long toward the south to attack the Church, and Dr. McDaniel, of the First Baptist Church, and Dr. McDaniel, of the First Baptist Church, and was followed by a conference in the Mayor's office, at which John P. Branch presided.

"I regard it as one of the greatest institutions we have," said Justice Crutchfield. "In my experience fully are contained that eight brigades were moving toward the south to attack the Church, and Dr. McDaniel, of the First Baptist Church, and Dr. McDan

Colonel John Murphy, as an independent business man and capitalist, spoke vigorously in favor of the bill, bringing a general laugh from the committee when he highly praised its "local option" feature, by which the plan of registration may be adopted by any county or city as it sees fit, without its being forced on any one. Ben Kirk patrick, a property owner of Lynchburg, speaking for the business men and banks of that city, heartily supported the bill.

George Bryan, attorney for the Virmen. The three aeropianes ordered by

volved.

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courts.

Westmoreland Davis, president of the State Farmers' Institute, spoke for the mander of the northwestern zone, reBuchanan, of the Associated Charities

George Bryan, attorney for the Virginia State Bankers' Association, made the most extended argument in behalf of the bill, discussing its legal phases in detail, and warmly commending its provisions as one of the greatest steps in advance the State could take.

At the meeting this afternoon the committee has invited the patron, Mr. Adams, and Colonel Eugene C. Massie,

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# The Hardman LAND DEAL BEHIND

and dismissals, he discussed at length the character and type of inmates. While it was probably true that there were some feeble-minded among them, he said, the State had no present place for the care of such people. An effort to get a commission of lunacy to commit four of the worst cases to an asy-lum had failed, the commission return-ing a verdict that they were not in-

Many Have Reformed. For the opponents to speak of girls of this type as irreclaimable, he said, was to show ignorance, as the institution now has on its parole list "girls who have been guilty of nameless per-versions," who are now in good homes. Of the twenty-four girls paroled, only two are known to have proven failures. One ran away and married, but, as the speaker expressed it, that could hard-ly be classed as an unpardonable sin. In fact, there were men in the hall, in whose families these girls had been placed, and who testified that they were making marked improvement. Every step had been taken with the close advice of the State Board of Charities. The so-called outbreaks at the home, whatever they were, were not due to the mismanagement of the

Association for the control of the c

don't say at Bon Air.
"What you ought to do is to estab-

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## Weather

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Special Local Data for Yesterday.

37
38

Accumulated excess in temperature 

# **SLOAN'S**

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# POLLARD REBUKES

Tells Henrico Official He Owes Assistant City Attorney a Public Apology.

HEARING ON ANNEXATION

Senate Committee Listens to Hours of Argument Without Reaching an End

After hearing three and a half hours of argument last night for and against Senator Wendenburg's bill, which proposes to limit any single annexation to 25 per cent of a county's taxable values, the Senate Committee on County, City and Town Organizations adjourned at five minutes of midnight without taking a vote, deferring its decision until Wednesday morning, when it will take the bill up in executive session.

The pro and antiannexation forces crowded the Senate chamber, and brought to bear upon the question an imposing amount of statistical argument. In favor of the restrictive amendment appeared Commonwealth's Attorney Haskins Hobson, of Chesterfield County; Commonwealth's Attorney P. St. Julien Wilcox, of Warwick County; Commonwealth's Attorney C. W. Throckmorton, Harry C. Beattle, Attorney S. Gordon Cumming, of Newport News, and Attorney H. M. Smith, Jr., of this city.

Most of the argument presented by both supporters and opponents of the bill centred about the local annexation fight, the merits and disabilities of which have already been given wide publicity.

publicity.
The delegation from Newport News and Warwick County brought the story of another annexation controversy in which Newport News and the county in which it lies are arrayed against each other. the county in which it lies are arrayed against each other.

Against the Wendenburg bill appeared a solid delegation from the city of Richmond headed by Mayor Ainsile and City Attorney Pollard. The speakers included, besides these two, Alderman Ordway Puller, Business Manager Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce; E. C. Folkes, of the Administrative Board, and City Engineer Boiling. City Attorney J. A. Massey, of Newport News, joined with the Richmond delegation in opposing the bill.

Committee members discussed in-

Ties Hands of Judge.

City Attorney Pollard attacked the amendment on the ground that it fixed an arbitrary maximum beyond which the hands of the trial judge weer tied, no matter how great the congestion of a city might be, how badly it needed the territory it asked for, or how able the county is to bear the deprivation. The general law, he said, wisely recognized these possible contingencies and rightly clothed the courts with the widest powers to determine the expediency and justice of any plan, both from the standpoints of the counties affected and the city.

He directed attention to the fact that the proposed amendment is receiving no support from the suburban communities which will form the larger part of the new annexation. All of these, he said, have asked to be annexed and none of them are asking for the amendment. The opposition, he said, comes chiefly from persons who are interested in properties already within the corporate limits, who fear that the taking in of new territory will defer the improvement of their holdings.

Mr. Folkes dwelt upon the city's ability to take care of the new territory, and thought it was an exceedingly bad policy for the Legislature to change the annexation law while a case under it was pending in court.

Court Proper Tribunal.

Alderman Puller said the elaborate

change the annexation law while a case under it was pending in court.

Court Proper Tribunal.

Alderman Puller said the elaborate arguments presented by the opposition were proof of its weakness. If their statements were supportable by evidence, he said, they could not fail to convince Judge Campbell of the strength of their cause. The court alone, he held, should decide the case, and not a committee of the Legislature imperfectly acquainted with the facts and able to give the matter only limited consideration.

Business Manager Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce, produced tables showing the growth of the city since the last annexation and the pressing need of new territory to relieve an intolerable state of congestion. City Engineer Bolling pointed out to the committee, with the aid of a map, the extent of the territory included in the annexation plan and the engineering reasons for laying down the line shown in the plan.

U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals met yesterday mbrning at 10 o'clock, with Circuit Judges Pritchard and Woods and District Judge Dayton

and Woods and District Judge Dayton in attendance.

The court announced and handed down its opinion in the following case:
No. 1193. Harriet L. Betts and Laurel River Logging Company, plaintiffs in arror, vs. Ben W. Gahagan, George W. Gahagan and Emma M. Gahagan, A. J. Gahagan, Lillie Neta Gahagan, minors, and Ben W. Gahagan, administrator of Geo. W. Gahagan, deceased, defendant in error; error to the District Court at

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Asheville, N. C. Opinion by Judge Woods. Affirmed.

No. 1227. T. K. Parrish, plaintiff in error, vs. Foreman-Blades Lumber Co.,

No. 1227. T. K. Parrish, plaintiff in error, vs. Foreman-Blades Lumber Co., Jessie P. Skinner, W. P. Skinner, Fannie W. S. Turner and C. H. Turner, her husband; Nellie T. S. Kittrell and J. C. Kittrell, her husband, and James C. Skinner, defendants in error; error to the District Court at Elizabeth City, N. C. Argued by George W. Ward and T. Crawford Biggs, of Asheville, N. C., for the plaintiff in error, and by W. D. Pruden, of Edenton, N. C., and A. D. MacLean, of Washington, N. C., for the defendants in error, and submitted.

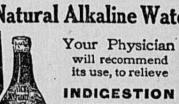
Case in call Monday:
No. 1217. Oille H. Browning and James S. Browning, Jr., an infant, suing by his next friend, James S. Browning, appellants, vs. Thomas T. Boswell, Merville H. Carter, Andrew C. Snyder, The Big Vein Pocahontas Coal Company et al., appellees; appeal from the District Court at Lynchburg, Va. To be argued by W. J. Henson, of Roanoke, Va., and Richard B. Tippett, of Baltimore, Md., for the appellants, and by Keech, Wright & Lord, of Baltimore, Md., for the appellees.

There will be no oral arguments in cases to-day, Saturdays being set aside under the rule as conference day, and the judges will confer on the cases argued during the present week.

George W. Ward, of Elizabeth City, N. C.; W. D. Pruden, of Washington, N. C., and A. D. MacLean, of Washington, N. C., were admitted to practice as attorneys and counselors in this court.

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